

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07680 241008Z

42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

/187 W

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R 231700Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 306

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 7680

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EAID

SUBJECT: CEAO REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 206231; B. OUAGADOUGOU 1872; C. LAGOS 8877;

D. ABIDJAN A-48 (NOTAL); E. LONDON 12290; F. DAKAR 5284

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 07680 241008Z

1. WE FIND DEPARTMENT'S ARGUMENT AGAINST ASSISTING CEAO AT THIS TIME TO BE A BIT SHALLOW. OVER THE YEARS, AID ASSISTANCE HAS GONE TO OAU AND ECA; TO OAU AND OCAM; TO ENTENTE AND LIPTAKE-GOURMA; TO OMVS AND LIPTAKO-GOURMA. THUS, THERE IS PLENTY OF PRECEDENT FOR ASSISTING RIVAL OR COMPETING ORGANIZATIONS AT SAME TIME. WITH AID'S HISTORY OF PROMOTING REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN AFRICA, IT WOULD HARDLY BE NOTICED IF ASSISTANCE WERE GIVEN TO YET ONE MORE. NOTING PRECLUDES ASSISTANCE TO WAEC IF IT SO REQUESTS.

2. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ARGUMENT WERE BASED ON DESIRE TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF PROJECTS, AS SUGGESTED OF CEREALS PRODUCTION AND MARKETING STUDY (REFTEL B, PARA 4), WE ARE FULLY IN AGREEMENT.

3. MODEST ASSISTANCE TO USEFUL PROJECTS BY CEAO, WHICH DO NOT DUPLICATE PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE U.S. OBJECTIVES IN AFRICA. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST AND ITS FELLOW-MEMBERS OF CEAO, ASSISTANCE TO CEAO WOULD BE A NET PLUS.

4. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, WE BELIEVE THAT COMBINED CEAO/WAEC IS STILL A LONG WAY AWAY. MAY EVEN REQUIRE STRENGTHENED CEAO FIRST, IN ORDER TO BE WILLING TO "MERGE" WITH POWERFUL NIGERIAN-DOMINATED WAEC. THUS, IF CEAO CAN BE USEFUL IN CONDUCTING DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA, DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD HESISTATE TO ASSIST IT AT THIS TIME.

SMITH

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